

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for runtime user interface automation, the system comprising:

automation script means for receiving an automation script for automating use of the user interface in an application; and

script translation means for intercepting a call from the automation script to a function simulating a user action on the application, retrieving a translated text string associated with the function call, and calling the function simulating the user action with the translated text string.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the script translation means comprises:

message translation means for supplying translated text for the automation script's run time execution; and

selective text locator means coupled to the message translation means for selectively supplying appropriate text to the automation script's run time execution depending on the function call.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the selective text locator means is arranged to selectively supply appropriate text to the automation script's run time execution depending on a resource ID of the function call.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the script translation means comprises:
 - a library including a function having a same signature as the function call and which is arranged to retrieve the translated text string before the function call; and
 - one of:
 - a file referencing the library, the automation script being arranged to reference the file and the library, and
 - the library including the retrieval function and the function call, the library being arranged to be called by the automation script.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the file referencing the library comprises an include file.
6. The system of claim 4, wherein the library including the retrieval function and the function call has the same name as a library containing the function called by the automation script.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the automation script comprises a Java™ script.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the automation script is in the English language and the application is arranged to use a non-English language.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises a graphical user interface.

10. A method for runtime user interface automation, the method comprising:

- providing an automation script for automating use of the user interface in an application;
- intercepting a call from the automation script to a function simulating a user action on the application;
- retrieving a translated text string associated with the function call; and
- calling the function simulating the user action with the translated text string.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

- providing message translation means for supplying translated text for the automation script's run time execution; and
- providing selective text locator means coupled to the message translation means, wherein the step of retrieving comprises selectively supplying appropriate text by the selective text locator means to the automation script's run time execution depending on the function call.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the selective text locator means selectively supplies appropriate text to the automation script's run time execution depending on a resource ID of the function call.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the script translation means comprises:

a library including a function having a same signature as the function call and which is called to retrieve the translated text string before the function call; and

one of:

a file referencing the library, the automation script referencing the file and the library,
and

the library including the retrieval function and the function call, the library being called by the automation script.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the file referencing the library comprises an include file.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the library including the retrieval function and the function call has the same name as a library containing the function called by the automation script.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the automation script comprises a Java™ script.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the automation script uses the English language and the application uses a non-English language.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the user interface comprises a graphical user interface.

19. A computer program element comprising computer program means for:

providing an automation script for automating use of the user interface in an application;

intercepting a call from the automation script to a function simulating a user action on the application;

retrieving a translated text string associated with the function call; and

calling the function simulating the user action with the translated text string.

20. The computer program element of claim 19, further comprising computer program means for:

providing message translation means for supplying translated text for the automation script's run time execution; and

providing selective text locator means coupled to the message translation means,

wherein the step of retrieving comprises selectively supplying appropriate text by the selective text locator means to the automation script's run time execution depending on the function call.